

# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Holcomb Creosote Superfund Site Yadkinville, Yadkin, North Carolina



## Remedial Action Fact Sheet

December 2022

### Introduction

This fact sheet contains information about the upcoming cleanup (Remedial Action) of the Holcomb Creosote Site (the Site). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is committed to engaging the community in Yadkinville. This fact sheet provides a description of the Site, status of the Remedial Action, and planned activities to address environmental conditions.

### Future Activities/Remedial Action

The Remedial Action (RA) for the HCC Site will begin in February 2023 and is expected to be completed October 2023. The following RA activities are planned:

- Demolition of remaining building (including removal of asbestos containing materials and lead paint/piping).
- Groundwater treatment consisting of calcium peroxide injections.
- Excavating contaminated soil and sediment outside the proposed containment cell area (shown on Figure 2). Consolidating excavated contaminated soil into the containment cell area.
- Backfilling the excavations from an off-site borrow source.
- Excavation and solidification/stabilization (S/S) of NAPL in subsurface soil above the water table. S/S will be performed within the containment area.
- In situ S/S of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) in subsurface soil below the water table and outside the proposed containment area.
- Capping the containment cell with a hazardous waste landfill compliant cap (RCRA Subtitle C).
- Evaluating and repairing (as necessary) the existing clay caps over the closed surface impoundment and landfarm.
- The containment cell, the former operations area, closed landfarm and surface impoundment caps and north area will be graded and vegetated where necessary to prevent erosion. Excavated wetland areas will be restored.
- Institutional controls (deed restrictions) and engineering controls (fences) will be used to restrict future use of the property to industrial/ commercial uses in areas that do not allow for unrestricted access and use. Fencing will be installed around the containment cell, the closed surface impoundment, and the closed landfarm to prevent disturbance of the capped areas.



**The Public is Invited to an  
Open House to discuss the**

**Remedial Action for the  
Holcomb Creosote Site**

**Please visit us on  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023  
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Yadkinville Volunteer Fire Department  
729 North Street Yadkinville, NC 27055**

**For more information, please contact**

**Brenda Bonner,  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
[Brown.Stephaniey@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Stephaniey@epa.gov)**

**(404) 562-562-8348**

## Site Location and Description

The Holcomb Creosote Company (HCC) Site is located at 5016 U.S. Highway 601, just north of Yadkinville, Yadkin County, North Carolina. The property consists of three parcels of land covering an area of approximately 80.4 acres and is bordered by the Grace Bible Church (formerly the Yadkin Friends Fellowship) to the north, by vacant wooded land and residences to the east, by an agricultural field to the south, and by U.S. Highway 601 to the west. Land uses surrounding the HCC property are predominantly agricultural, residential, and light industrial. An unnamed tributary of North Deep Creek flows through the HCC property, between the former wood treating operations area and the landfarm, and enters a wetlands area, which runs into Dobbins Pond. The HCC treated wood products with creosote from 1951 until the facility closed in February 2009. Until 1983, creosote wastes were stored in an 80,000- gallon capacity unlined surface impoundment in the southern portion of the Site, west of the North Deep Creek tributary. A 0.75-acre land treatment unit (the Landfarm), also unlined, was constructed east of the tributary and filled with approximately 250 cubic yards of sludge excavated from the ground surface of the impoundment. Site features are shown on Figure 1. The HCC property boundary is not fenced and is accessible to the public. In 2011, fences were installed surrounding the closed surface impoundment and landfarm, and part of the unnamed tributary of North Deep Creek that fronts the surface impoundment and landfarm. The office and storage building and canopy covering the former drip pad remain on the western portion of HCC. Structures formerly located on HCC include the creosote storage tanks, pressure treatment vessel, drip pad and sump, concrete storage pit, steel settling tank, and untreated and treated wood storage areas.

## Previous Investigations

From 2009 to 2011, Site investigation activities were conducted under North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (NCDEQ) oversight. From 2011 to 2014, Site investigation activities were conducted by EPA Region 4 including the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Site. The Site was proposed for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL) in March 2012, and in September 2012 the Site was officially placed on the NPL,

classifying it as a Superfund site. Groundwater monitoring at HCC began in 1982 with installation of three groundwater monitoring wells in the shallow aquifer beneath HCC.

Groundwater assessment was initiated to determine the magnitude and extent of creosote-related contamination. Following closure of the surface impoundment and construction of the landfarm, additional wells were installed in the suspected downgradient (southeast) corner of the surface impoundment and around the landfarm perimeter. Testing of these wells indicated contamination; therefore, the

groundwater assessment was expanded. A corrective action plan (CAP) was prepared in 1996, containing a proposed remedial design to limit the migration of the hazardous contaminants in the groundwater system that had resulted from releases from the hazardous waste management units (HWMUs), namely the surface

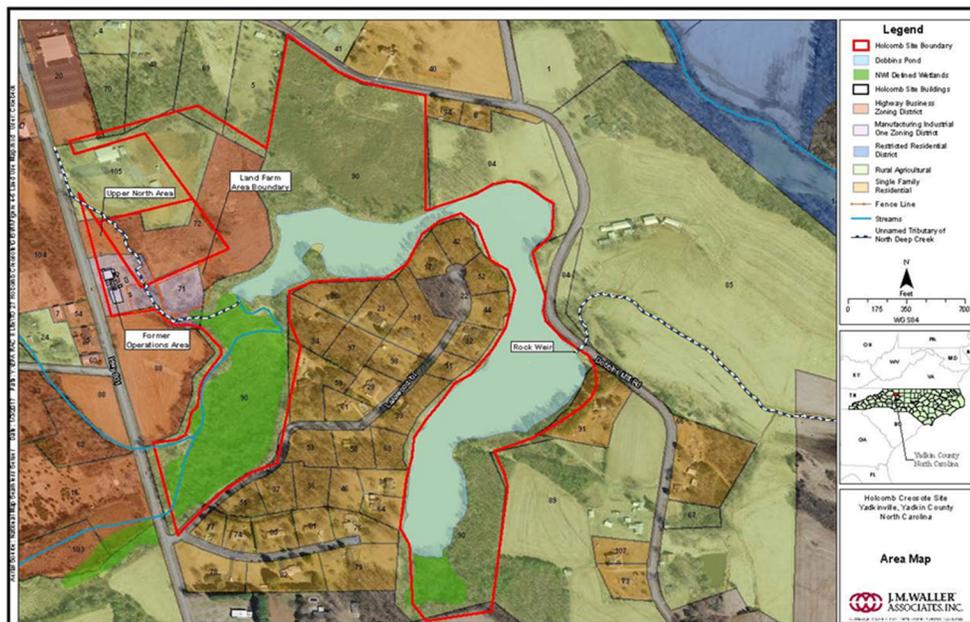
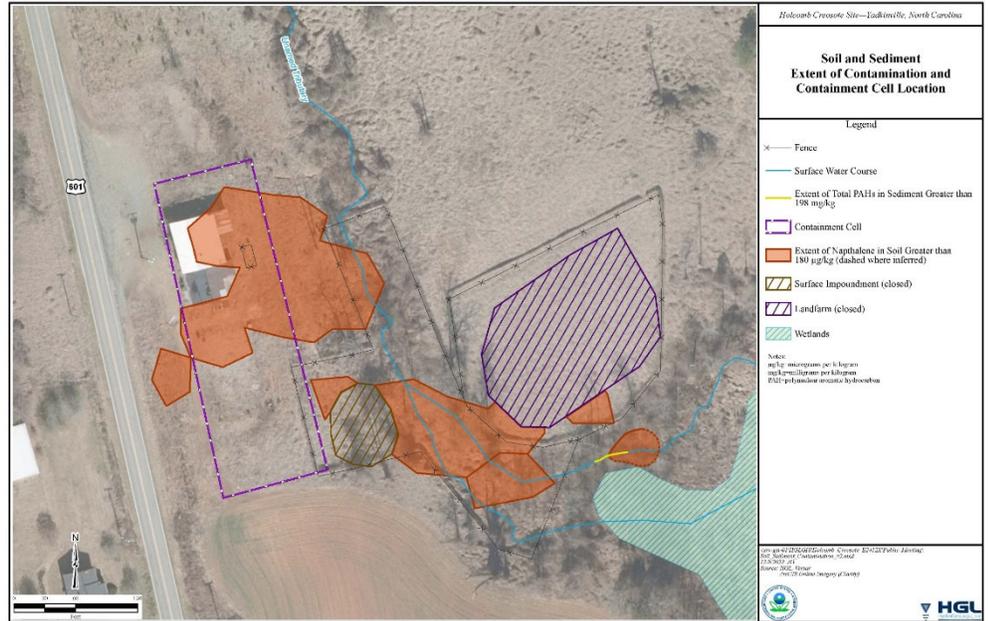


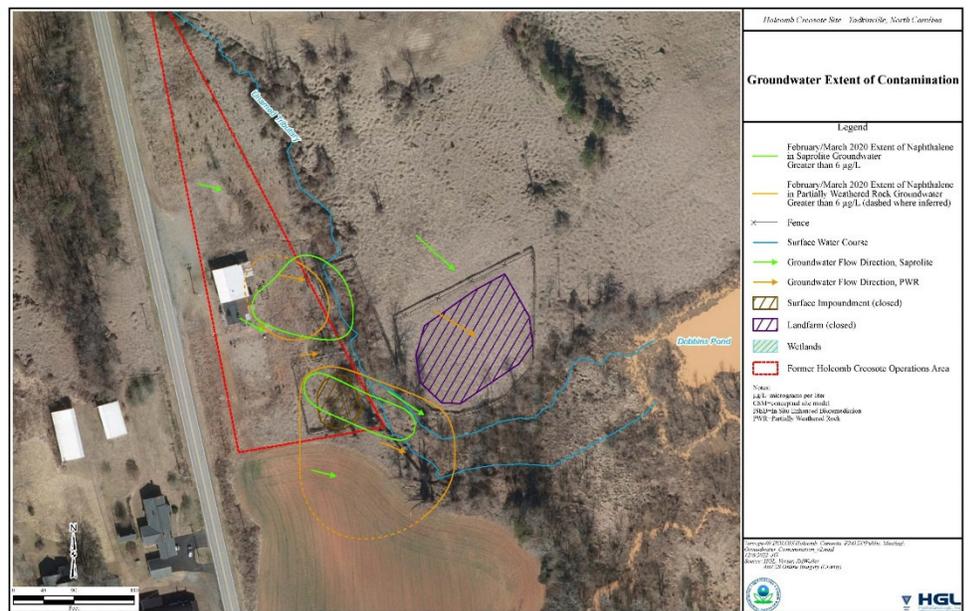
Figure 1: Area Map for Holcomb Creosote Site

impoundment, landfarm, and drip pad. In 2002, the HCC groundwater monitoring network consisted of 16 monitoring wells. Most of these wells are in the vicinity of the surface impoundment and landfarm and are completed/screened in either the residuum soil or weathered bedrock. The HCC groundwater monitoring wells were sampled annually from 1995 to 2005. In November 2009, NCDEQ conducted a Site Investigation (SI) of HCC and noted several areas of concern including the treatment vessel, 55-gallon sump, catch basin, transfer area and underlying soils, concrete storage pit, above ground storage tanks (ASTs), and approximately 30 55-gallon containers. In January 2011, EPA conducted an emergency response (ER) site evaluation at the request of NCDEQ. The site evaluation activities included collection of soil and sediment samples along the unnamed tributary of North Deep Creek to determine if contamination from HCC was impacting the unnamed tributary of North Deep Creek. Soil samples were collected from depths ranging from 0 to 20 inches below ground surface (bgs).



**Figure 2: Extent of Soil and Sediment Contamination and Containment Cell Location**

A Remedial Investigation (RI) was performed at the Site between October 2012 and June 2014. Field work activities included soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment sampling. The RI concluded that contaminants of concern (COCs), including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), cobalt and other constituents are present at the Site. There are COCs present in soil, groundwater and sediment. In addition, NAPL contamination is likely present in the soil and groundwater beneath the former operations area. NAPL is a term used to describe contaminants in a liquid solution that do not dissolve in or easily mix with water and flow separately from groundwater. A pre-Remedial Design (RD) investigation was performed at the Site between February and October 2020. Field work activities including additional soil, groundwater, sediment, geotechnical and NAPL investigations were performed. In addition, bench-scale and pilot-scale treatability studies were performed to determine design parameters for effective remediation of soil, sediment and groundwater. The extent of soil and sediment contamination is shown on Figure 2. The extent of groundwater contamination is shown on Figure 3.



**Figure 3: Extent of Groundwater Contamination**

---

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**EPA Remedial Project Manager**

**Joydeb (Joy) Majumder, P.E**

(404) 562-9121

[Majumder.Joydeb@epa.gov](mailto:Majumder.Joydeb@epa.gov)

**EPA Community Involvement Coordinator**

**Brenda Bonner**

(404) 562-8348

[Bonner.Brenda@epa.gov](mailto:Bonner.Brenda@epa.gov)

**Information Repository**

Yadkin County Public Library

233 East Main Street Yadkinville, NC 27055

[www.epa.gov/superfund/holcomb-creosote](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/holcomb-creosote)